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IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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OFFICE OF SENATOR STROM THURMOND  
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Senator Strom Thurmond (D-SC) announced today that the Interstate Commerce Commission is planning to hold a complete investigation of freight-rate practices which he says have worked to the detriment of South Carolina lumbermen. Thurmond wrote letters to all members of the Commission Wednesday reporting "an increasing number of complaints from lumbermen in South Carolina concerning freight-rates and other charges by the railroads."

Replying to Thurmond's letter Commissioner Richard F. Mitchell pointed out that no "hold down" on lumber freight rates was granted in the general freight rate increase which was served this week. The report said that the question of what "hold down", if any, should be established could be answered only after a complete investigation is made.

Southern pine lumbermen have been protesting for the last several years that the practice of granting "hold downs" destroys the natural advantage that Southern shippers have of proximity to the Eastern markets. West Coast interests, which benefit from the "hold downs", have taken a large share of the Eastern market away from Southern shippers.

Thurmond, a member of the Senate Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee, promised to continue to give close attention to the problem.

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